



Napoleon Homestead

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 Napoleon, ND 58561 Official Newspaper of Logan County Single Copy Price \$1.00 www.napoleonnd.com/homestead

Wind Farm Hearing Draws Large Crowd

The courtroom and adjoining meeting room in the Logan County courthouse were filled to capacity Tuesday for a hearing by the Public Service Commission regarding the siting application for a wind farm in the area.

About 95 concerned persons attended the meeting to listen to testimony from Just Wind LLC persons who are applying to place 160 wind turbines in a four-township area in and around Napoleon in Logan County. Each turbine would generate 2.3 megawatts of electricity, with total megawatts being 368. This would be the largest wind farm in the country, according to testimony.

PSC commissioners Susan We-fald, Tony Clark and Kevin Cramer all indicated it was important to have a hearing in a place where the project is to be built so persons interested could attend to present testimony. They also noted that it was important to have leasing in place where the project is to be built. "It is important to do it right, as we are stewards of this land", they stated.

Jeff Metzger, project developer and general manager of Just Wind LLC, testified that the project has grown from an original 27 turbines to 160 which would generate the maximum amount of electricity which can be fed into the transmission system. The growth, he said, "is because of the cooperation of local people in the community, and since land owners have had a chance to express their views and interests."

Metzger indicated that construction could start in October or November, 2008, depending on PSC approval, with full commercial production to be completed in the fall of 2010. The first stage includes 104 turbines and will go online in the fall of 2009. The final stage of 56 turbines would go online in the fall of 2010, as the company producing the turbines could not supply all 160 turbines in one year.

Metzger pointed out that this was a one person project to start with, but since then various specialists in wind farms have been added



The Logan County Courthouse and Commissioners meeting room were packed with about 90 people who came to hear the testimony presented to the State Public Service Commission in regards to the proposed Just Wind, LLC wind farm. Here, front row **Dennis Kost** of Washburn while the next three in the second row, **Kyle Haas, Julia Horner** and **Richard Gross** all of Napoleon listen intently to the testimony. Kost and Gross both spoke in favor of the project

to the organization. He stated that the reason for 2.3 meg. turbines is that these work better with the area wind, than smaller turbines.

The height of each tower is 260 ft., with the length of the blade

making the turbine 408 ft. high.

The commissioners requested more detailed maps of the location of the turbines to determine whether or not the setback is met from

roads, power lines and property lines, as well as from land which is not signed up for the project. Several other items were requested by the commission which Metzger indicated he would be able to supply once studies have been completed.

It was reported that no new transmission lines would be needed to handle the electricity.

Besides specialists working on the project, other comments were received from Dennis Kost of Washburn who favored development of the project, and Richard Gross of Napoleon who noted that projects such as this are needed to keep rural communities viable. He also said that he was not aware of any negative comments regarding the project, and if Just Wind LLC heard any such comments, they were addressed.

The PSC commissioners thanked everyone for attending and showing interest. They said that no immediate decision would be made, but would hope to make a decision shortly after all requested information is received.